

Subject: URGENT: SEND WSAB COMMENTS TODAY! + LTCC Membership Renewal
From: "Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC)" <info@littletokyola.org>
Date: 5/3/18, 11:29 AM
To: ellenendo@yahoo.com

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TODAY! **Send comments to Metro Staff!!**

Dear Little Tokyo community members:

Please submit your comments / thoughts about which Route Alternative for the [West Santa Ana Branch project](#) you want / DO NOT WANT by **TODAY (Thurs, 5/3)**. Metro WSAB Staff will be using input received only through today to help determine their recommendation about which of the 8 Alignments should move on to the next phase of environmental study to present to the Metro board.

[Attached is a letter template you are welcome to use!](#) Please note that you can send letters both as individuals, as well as an institution - or both. Metro often responds to quantity of letters - the more, the better! So please also share with your networks!!

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE LTCC / LT COMMUNITY TEMPLATE LETTER](#)

Letters **TODAY** should be sent to these Metro staff members:

"Cornejo, Laura" <CORNEJOL@metro.net>, "Brown, Julia" <BrownJu@metro.net>, "Wong, Teresa" <WONGTE@metro.net>

Feel free to cc your elected officials as well:

Jose Huizar <jose.huizar@lacity.org>,
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, assemblymember.santiago@assembly.ca.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Comments can also be submitted via the Metro WSAB comment form:

<https://www.metro.net/projects/west-santa-ana/wsab-comment-form/>

After today (Thurs 5/3), we will be focusing our advocacy efforts on Metro Board, who are ultimately the decision-makers!! Please stay tuned for further updates about that. For **just TODAY**, however, we need to focus on getting as many letters to Metro staff as possible.

Finally: Please SAVE THESE DATES, and be prepared to come out to these meetings! These meetings are where the Metro Board will be **deciding** and **voting** on which routes from WSAB will be carried forward into the next phase of environmental studies.

- **Wednesday, May 16th, 2pm** @ Metro Headquarters (Metro Board Committee: Planning & Programming Committee)
- **Thursday, May 24th, 9am** @ Metro Headquarters (Full Metro Board Meeting)

Please email any questions to Kristin at kristin@littletokyola.org

LTCC Membership Renewal

The [Little Tokyo Community Council membership drive](#) is here! LTCC has changed our membership to reflect the calendar year (Jan-Dec), and invite current and new Little Tokyo stakeholders to become members of LTCC and support our work to protect Little Tokyo!

If you paid for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, you are grandfathered into the 2018 year, but are still welcome to pay again if you want :). Otherwise, please consider renewing or becoming a member! Please see a **message from our LTCC Board Chair, Chris Komai**, below.

[Download the letter here!](#)

[Download the 2018 Membership Form here!](#)



Little Tokyo Community Council
106 ½ Judge John Aiso Street, Suite 172
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213.293.5822 | info@littletokyola.org

Dear Friend of Little Tokyo:

As the Chair for the Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC) Board of Directors, I wanted to elicit your continuing support for our organization and for our persistent efforts to protect and nurture our 130+-year-old neighborhood. Specifically, we ask you to renew your LTCC membership, or for you to join today. With your backing, LTCC can ensure that Little Tokyo's interests will always be represented in dealings with government agencies, private developers and adjacent communities.

Today, Little Tokyo faces challenges as critical as any time since World War II. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) continues its construction of the Regional Connector light rail system with its staging area and Little Tokyo/Arts District station site in the heart of our community. The street closures at times have disrupted our local businesses, religious institutions and nonprofit organizations. LTCC helped to negotiate mitigations from Metro, including funding for the marketing/information project, Go Little Tokyo. That contract with LTCC was just extended until 2021 when the train line becomes operational.

But, Metro is planning another new line, the West Santa Ana Branch, which could run north on Alameda to Union Station and subject our community to more disruptions. Simultaneously, the City of Los Angeles has developed its Civic Center Master Plan that includes major construction across from the Union Center for the Arts. The City intends to open up its First Street North parking lot, behind the Little Tokyo Historic District, to developers. New mixed-use complexes have taken over the block between 2nd and 3rd and San Pedro and Los Angeles Street where the Nisei Week carnival and Tofu Festival formerly were held. Some of new businesses there have no connection to our historic community and little interest in Little Tokyo.

To meet those challenges and much more, the LTCC Board determined that a full-time staff member was needed. In February of 2017, LTCC hired Kristin Fukushima, the former Project Manager for Sustainable Little Tokyo (SLT), as its Managing Director. Since then, Fukushima and LTCC have:

- In early 2017, organized community support to halt the preservation of the Parker Center building, the former LAPD headquarters, which symbolized the City's eminent domain seizure of a major portion of Little Tokyo in the 1950s, and represented Little Tokyo at the Civic Center Master Plan community advisory council;

- In early 2017, finalized a settlement agreement with the ETCO Homes developer that provided cash payments to local businesses to help mitigate the effects of the closure of a crucial parking lot;

- In October of 2017, sponsored and partnered with local business owners to organize Haunted Little Tokyo, a new community Halloween event that drew thousands;

- In June of 2017, teamed with other community groups to express the community's opposition to the West Santa Ana Branch's proposal to build aerial tracks down Alameda and to protect community institutions such as Maryknoll (St. Francis Xavier Chapel) and Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple; and

The Little Tokyo Community Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community coalition representing the interests of Little Tokyo, with membership from businesses, residents, community organizations, religious institutions, and other vested stakeholders in the Little Tokyo community.



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-Since 2015, supported the efforts of the Go for Broke National Education Center to renew its land lease with the City, and continued lobbying to ensure the City's Request for Proposal for the First Street North property includes the best interests of Little Tokyo.

LTCC continues to advance Sustainable Little Tokyo (SLT), which seeks to embed sustainable economic, environmental and cultural elements into Little Tokyo's future. It monitors a series of government projects that affect the businesses, streets, landscape and public art in our community. Its general meetings have become a respected venue for representatives of the Little Tokyo to discuss current issues, express their opinions and share their activities and events.

By renewing your membership or becoming a member of LTCC, you enable our organization to maintain a constant presence in the civic affairs of downtown Los Angeles. More importantly, you join with other organizations, businesses and individuals in seeking to protect Little Tokyo and strengthen its future.

The Little Tokyo Community Council is moving from a fiscal year to a calendar year financial structure. If you paid for membership after July 2017, your membership will be extended until the end of 2018 – although you are welcome to pay again for the 2018 year. Otherwise, our annual membership will now coincide with the calendar year.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Chris Komai
Little Tokyo Community Council Board Chair

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You can apply for membership [online](https://littletokyola.org/members/) (<https://littletokyola.org/members/>), or download this [form](#) and return it to us by [email](#), mail (106 ½ Judge John Aiso Street, Suite 172, Los Angeles, 90012), or at the next General Meeting (4th Tuesdays, 11:45am @ JANM).

For more information, check out our membership page! <https://littletokyola.org/members/>

May 2018 Little Tokyo Community Council meetings:

Please join us at the following LTCC meetings! All are welcome :)

1. Wed, 5/16: PLEASE NOTE: LTCC is **CANCELING our monthly All-Committees Meeting, and asking the Little Tokyo community to instead join us at the Metro Programming & Planning Committee to ask that the Metro Board to REJECT Route Alternatives A, B, C, D, & F for further study**

2. Tues, 5/22, 11:45am: LTCC General Meeting @ JANM

3. Wed, 5/23, 3:00pm: LTCC Marketing & Go Little Tokyo Campaign Meeting @ LT Metro Office

4. Thurs, 5/24, 9am: Join LTCC at the Metro Board Meeting to advocate for Little Tokyo regarding WSAB, the **NEWEST Metro Train coming through Little Tokyo!**

Little Tokyo Sparkle! Sign Up Now!

Saturday, May 12th, 9am-12:30pm

DONATIONS can be made to:
LITTLE TOKYO COMMUNITY COUNCIL: 106 1/2 JUDGE JOHN AISO STREET, SUITE 172, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 (Fed. Tax ID: 20-0258503)
LITTLE TOKYO PUBLIC SAFETY ASSOCIATION: 307 E. 1ST ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 (Fed. Tax ID: 95-4416163)

LITTLE TOKYO *Sparkle*

NANCY KIKUCHI VOLUNTEER DAY

Bring Your HACHIMAKI



Community Cleanup

Sweep-Scrape-Pick up Trash-Sidewalk Clean-up

**Saturday, May 12, 2018
9AM-12:30PM**

Join us in our efforts to clean up Little Tokyo
And continue the process of building our community!

SIGN-UP LINK: [Click here](#) or <http://bit.ly/LTsparkle2018>

Bring: gloves, Hat, sunscreen

Dress Appropriately

Meet at JACCC Plaza at 9 am (244 S. San Pedro St., L.A. 90012)

Light Lunch will be provided

For more information: snagano@aol.com

SPONSOR AND SUPPORTERS (partial list)

LT COMMUNITY COUNCIL • LT PUBLIC SAFETY ASSOCIATION

LT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION/BID•COUNCILMEMBER HUIZAR CD14•HCNC•JACCC

LT SERVICE CENTER (LTSC)•LT HISTORICAL SOCIETY•SUSTAINABLE LT•LT VIBES

LT ROTARY CLUB•JANM GO LITTLE TOKYO •VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

HIGASHI HONGANJI•CAFÉ DULCE •JAPANGELES•UNION CHURCH

TUESDAY NIGHT PROJECT•LITTLE TOKYO TOWERS•ZENSHUJI•KOYASAN•LT VILLA

LT TERAMACHI•WOLF AND CRANE•BALDORIA•FUGESTSUDO

NISEI WEEK FOUNDATION • NCRR • RAJU SHIMPO • MARYKNOLL



Date: May 12th
Place: JACCC Plaza, 244 S. San Pedro St.
What: Little Tokyo Sparkle: Clean up Little Tokyo
Time: 9-12:30

SIGN UP HERE: <http://bit.ly/LTsparkle2018>

Light lunch will be provided! Bring hats, gloves, and last year's hachimaki! :)

Check out the LT Community Calendar!

Every month, Little Tokyo has a ton of great events, programs, exhibits, and shows! Check out the [Little Tokyo Community Calendar](#) on the [Go Little Tokyo website](#) to see what's going on in our neighborhood!

Notice something is missing? [Submit the event here](#)!

Follow us online!

LTCC has just launched a [blog](#) and a [Facebook](#) presence! We are slowly rolling out both, but you can get in early and start following us now!

Our website is also back in action!! Check out the new site at www.littletokyola.org

LTCC Blog: <https://littletokyocommunity.tumblr.com/>
LTCC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LTCommunityCouncil/>



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Little Tokyo Community Council [www.LittleTokyoLA.org]

Send calendar and list serv distribution requests to INFO@LittleTokyoLA.org

For inquiries email SECRETARY@LittleTokyoLA.org

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106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St.
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